

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE **4-A**

USA TODAY
22 May 1986

White House 'intensifies' war on leaks

By Johanna Neuman
USA TODAY

The White House is stepping up its campaign to stop the media from divulging information it says hurts national security.

President Reagan's call to *The Washington Post's* Katherine Graham urging her not to publish a story on accused spy Ronald Pelton is but the latest salvo in the war over leaks.

"There's been a concerted effort," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said. "You could say intensified."

Wednesday, the CIA was reviewing the Post article to determine whether to seek prosecution

under a law barring disclosure of intelligence secrets.

Recent warning shots:

■ **State Department** speechwriter Spencer Warren was fired last week after he admitted leaking a classified cable from the U.S. Embassy in Argentina.

■ **CIA Director William Casey asked the Justice Department to prosecute NBC for reporting that Pelton provided the Soviets with data on a submarine surveillance project.**

■ **Secretary of State George Shultz** joined the warpath last week with: "It's disgusting the way the stuff leaks out. We've got to find the people who are

doing it and fire them."

Reagan — who admits "the White House is the leakiest place I've ever been in" — recently revealed the intercept of messages between Libya's People's Bureau in East Berlin and Tripoli before the April 5 West Berlin disco bombing.

Asked why the White House leak was justified and the Post story was not, Speakes said: "It was a carefully considered decision here to release the Libyan information ... it was a judgmental call."

Said Post Executive Editor Benjamin Bradlee: "We deleted what we felt appropriate, after discussion."